

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GEORGE 01911 161924Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01
IO-13 AID-05 NEA-10 /086 W
-----056432 161929Z /44

O 161900Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5119
AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1911

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, PN, GY
SUBJECT: PANAMA CANAL AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 191921

1. FONMIN WILLS HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT
COMMENDING THE US FOR THE PANAMA CANAL AGREEMENT. HOWEVER,
BEFORE HE DECIDES ON PRECISE LANGUAGE HE WOULD LIKE TO
KNOW WHAT GENERAL TORRIJOS HAS SAID PUBLICLY ABOUT THE
AGREEMENT.

2. DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS ON CANAL AGREEMENT, WILLS HAS
BEEN HIGHLY COMPLEMENTARY OF THE US POSITION. HE HAS
NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESS RELEASES WHICH THE USIS
WIRELESS HAS DISTRIBUTED AS WELL AS THE Q'S AND A'S WE HAVE
RECEIVED HAVE BEEN ONESIDED IN THAT THE ADVANTAGES FOR THE
US, SUCH AS THE CONTINUANCE OF US MILITARY PRESENCE AT A
LEVEL TO BE DECIDED BY THE US, US CONTROL OF LAND AND THE
CANAL OPERATION ETC., HAVE BEEN STRESSED WHEREAS THE
POLITICAL BENEFITS TO PANAMA ARE UNDERPLAYED. FROM THE
RELEASES, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PANAMANIAN NATIONALISM
HAS BEEN BOUGHT OFF FOR MONEY. HE HAS SUGGESTED THAT FOR
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USE IN LATIN AMERICA AN EQUALLY GOOD CASE BE MADE FOR
THE POLITICAL BENEFITS PANAMA WILL GET FROM THE CANAL.
THIS WOULD ENCOURAGE STRONGER MANIFESTATIONS OF SUPPORT
FROM THAN DOES THE EMPHASIS ON US RIGHTS AND BENEFITS.

3. WILLS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE US ATTEMPT TO GET AN
EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FROM SRI LANKA AS HEAD OF THE

NON ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE. SUCH SUPPORT WOULD ENCOURAGE OTHER NAM MEMBERS TO COME FORWARD. ALSO, BECAUSE SRI LANKA AND CUBA ARE COMPETING FOR INFLUENCE IN THE NAM THIS WOULD TEND TO UNDERMINE ANY NEGATIVE INFLUENCE OF THE CUBANS.

4. ACTION: CAN EMBASSY PANAMA OR THE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE FAVORABLE PUBLIC STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE CANAL AGREEMENT MADE BY TORRIJOS AND/OR OTHER PANAMANIAN LEADERS?
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, CANALS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, EWWT, PN, US, GY
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